WRL News

Number 210 The War Resisters League Jan.-Feb. 1979

WASHINGTON 11 CONVICTED

By Van Zwisohn and Cathy Carson

'These people planned their demonstration, even spying out the White House, afraid to 'Blow their Cover.'"

—Ken Reisler, fearless prosecutor.

"Mr. Pontier must be a fanatic, the way he believes in the Constitution...

It's clear that Mr. Hedeman has no respect for the law. He would demonstrate even in the Oval Office...

I know that you know what you were doing."

—Judge Donald Smith, on the record.

"So, while the great important powers of the world are piling up arms, nuclear armaments—all the noise and terror of coming war—we did a small, quiet kind of simple thing. We stepped out onto the grass of our own president's public home and our friends unfurled a banner in the public place of Russian power and we said Listen! Stop!

"Whatever you decide about us—guilty or not guilty—we hope you hear what we're saying. Otherwise you'll be taking risks much greater than we've taken and the grass of the whole world will be dangerous..."

—Grace Paley, a statement not permitted to be made.

"Guilty. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty."

—The jury, eight women and four men. Ten black people, two white. The only white male was chosen as foreperson.

We'd spent seven days on trial in an airless, windowless subterranean courtroom; one built for trouble with one way mirrors, retractable bullet shields, limited exit. The jury had deliberated only a few hours before delivering the verdict, and despite our motion for immediate sentencing we were ordered to return for sentencing on February 12, at which time we can be forced to serve up to six months in jail. The judge said, while the prosecutor grinned, "They didn't have any trouble getting here for a demonstration, they shouldn't have any problem getting here for sentence." This despite the fact that all of us come from some distance from Washington: New York City, Upstate New York, Miami Florida.

The trial had been long and often frustrating. For the eleven defendants, whose background and political experience differ considerably, a crucial aspect was in trying to control as much of the trial as possible without forfeiting the benefit of legal counsel Kathleen Johnson and James Klimaski. For, while Karl Bissinger is a veteran activist in Civil Disobedience demonstrations, Karen Malpede's experiences were, for her, firsts: Civil Disobedience, arrest, a night in jail, arraignment, trial.

Every evening after eight hours of court, eleven defendants, friends and a huge Akito named Mowgli lumbered into the library of Jim's law office to reassure each other and hash out the politics for the next day's testimony—politics that might never get before the jury. We would challenge each other's views of how

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PEN joins WRL on the first day of the seven day vigil at the Federal Building in New York to support the Washington 11. Left to right are: Steven Ben Israel, Richard Hanley, Gwen Fabricant, Sybil Claiborne, Faith Sale, Kirk Sale and Robert Nichols. Not in the picture is Don Barthelme. On the day before the end of the vigil, Susan Sontag participated. Photo by Grace Hedemann.

The Jonestown Suicides—And World Suicides

By Sybil Claiborne

What have the Washington 11 to do with the targedy at Guyana? Unfurling an anti-nulcear banner on the lawn of the White House was an affirmation of life; the mass suicide/murder at Guyana echoes the message of death that is constantly heard throughout the land.

The possibility of nuclear war has been with us a long time. But in the last few months it seems closer, more threatening. Nearly every day the papers publish stories discussing the odds of survival. In the Pentagon, they play war games in which millions of people die. We spend more and more of our budget on weapons although our arsenal of death is already bulging. Our latest folly, tactical nuclear weapons, only intensifies the risk of nuclear war. And even the least political among us knows that our revived civil defense program, depending on mass evacuations of our cities, is impossible. Death has become our daily diet.

This message of doom lends a certain terrible logic to the mass suicides in Guyana. Why wait if it is going to happen anyway? Of what value is life if national policy demands our incineration?

When they unfurled a banner on the White House lawn, the Washington 11 were saying a loud and clear *no* to nuclear war. Their act and subsequent arrest and trial have had an important effect on the anti-nuclear movement. People who do not ordinarily stand on the streets came to vigil on their behalf, including well-known people from the art and writing community who made statements to the press.

The vigil at Federal Plaza in downtown New York went on for seven days, the duration of the trial. Duplicates of the banners unfurled in Washington and the Soviet Union were displayed. Thousands of leaflets were distributed and thousands of names collected on a petition to the President on behalf of the defendants.

On the seventh day of the trial, the Washington 11 were found guilty on all counts. All around the country, people are responding to the verdict with shock and outrage. The sentencing which takes place on February 12 (Lincoln's birthday) will generate further support. Supporters are asked to come to the D.C. Superior Court, Room # 24, on the day of sentencing at 9:30 a.m. A demonstration is scheduled to leave the courtroom immediately following the judge's decision. The exact scenario, which will probably include the opportunity for those who choose to practice civil disobedience, is yet to be determined.

The goal is to stimulate further support among civil libertarians and anti-nuclear activists.

The original act continues to reverberate among all those who choose life over death and who continue to believe that it is possible to turn this country away from the madness of nuclear holocaust.

Sybil Claiborne is a member of the WRL Executive and Steering Committees.

Some of the marchers outside of the St. Louis B.O.P. office.

Marion Protest Ends With Arrests

By Scott Myers

One hundred-twenty five people demonstrated outside the U.S. Bureau of Prisons office November 27 while nine others occupied the office in protest of B.O.P. policies at the Marion Illinois Federal Prison. The nine were allowed to stay in the office for two hours before being arrested. They were seeking a public statement from the local B.O.P. director, advocating the closing of Marion's long term control unit. The director refused to issue the statement after a long discussion of conditions at Marion. The occupiers were then arrested on charges of peace disturbance and trespassing. All were carried from the office on stretchers. They were released 20 hours later on their own recognizance.

The sit-in was the first major civil disobedience action in St. Louis in over ten years and one of the first such actions ever taken against U.S. Bureau of Prisons policies. "We have exposed the public to the repressive policies of the CIA and FBI," said Audrey Myers of the National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers, but it is time we recognized that the U.S. Bureau of Prisons is in the same business. The Marion long-term control unit is the most blatant example of this, and that's why we're here today, but the Bureau's Olympic Prison project and their plans to build more prisons in America must be challenged too."

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At a rally held before the demonstration, supporters cheered solidarity messages from Ralph Miranda, a Marion prisoner and one of the Four Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners, Lorenzo Ervin, a former SNCC organizer being held at Marion, the Pontiac Prisoners Organization, the Canadian Moratorium on Prison Construction and the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

The nine demonstrators who sat-in at the B.O.P. office later pled "Not guilty" to the charges of trespassing and peace disturbance. The group stated that they planned to put the Bureau of Prisons and the Marion control unit on trial during their trial. A January 9 court date has been set, but the group's attorney said he didn't expect the case to go on trial until February or March.

Endorsers of the November 27 action included WRL, National Lawyers Guild, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, National Moratorium on Prison Construction, Southern Organizing Committee for Social and Economic Justice, Dan and Phil Berrigan, Elizabeth McAllister, Anne Braden, Mobilization for Survival (Midwest), numerous Catholic Worker Houses, the Iowa Methodist Federation for Social Action, and the Indiana Interreligious Commission on Human Equality.

The Marion Illinois Federal Prison replaced Alcatraz as *the* maximum security prison in the U.S. The long-term control unit, an indefinite solitary confinement unit, was opened in 1972 and has since become the Bureau of Prisons' special lock-up for activist prisoners from all federal prisons, many state prisons and even from the Virgin Islands. Federal court rulings have officially noted that torture methods have been used in the control unit and that the unit has been used "to silence prison critics...religious leaders...economic and philosophical dissidents."

Scott Myers works with National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers and St. Louis WRL.

THE RETURN OF THE DRAFT?

by Peggy Frantz

Draft inductions into the armed forces came to an end in 1972. In 1975 the draft went into "deep stand-by" status with an executive order from President Ford that the Selective Service System (SSS) *cease registration and classification of draft-eligible men. Recent developments in Congress represent a serious planning for strengthening of the SSS, and introduction of the concept of national service to this country. What follows is a possible scenario for the next five years, reprinted from the January 1979* **issue of The Reporter for Conscience's Sake.**

Registration

A peacetime registration would be the first step in the process of reinstituting a national conscription program. It is probable that the proposals for a peacetime registration that were introduced in the 95th Congress will reappear in 1979.

It is possible, with an executive order from the President and funds appropriated by Congress, that the Selective Service could be authorized to resume registration and classification of all men* from age 18 to 26, with few exceptions, as early as the latter part of 1979.

Why the push for a return to registration?

The Department of Defense requires that the SSS be ready to deliver 100,000 inductees in 60 days in the event of a national emergency. Critics argue that the SSS cannot meet these manpower requirements in the time alloted without a peacetime registration to locate draft-eligible persons.

It is claimed that the present deep stand-by SSS cannot deliver inductees any earlier than 7 months after mobilization—an inadequate period of time for what the President's Selective Service Reorganization Study describes as "a sudden breaking but prolonged war with extensive casualties."

*Women could easily be included with a simple change in the law.

In the recently completed Department of Defense study on alternatives to the All-Volunteer Force (AVF) concurs that the SSS cannot meet mobilization requirements Congress will be under great pressures to do something about it.

The attitude being conveyed by conservatives on Capitol Hill is that we should never have allowed the SSS to go into a deep stand-by posture, and that action should be taken now to be prepared for war.

Voices in the military are also calling for the return of registration.

John P. White, Assistant Secretary of Defense, Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics, was reluctant to support any step toward conscription in February, 1978. By June, however, White reversed himself saying, "In case of a major sustained war, we plan to rely on the Draft and SSS...Frankly, I am not satisfied with the current peacetime posture of our SSS."

An even more concrete position was taken on November 19, 1978, by General David C. Jones, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who revealed that the Joint Chiefs had recommended to the Secretary of Defense that a peacetime registration and classification process be resumed.

Those who favor registration recognize that the American public will not readily accept a peacetime draft. Therefore, they emphasize that they are proposing registration—not conscription. Peacetime registration will be promoted as simply a procedure that will only be utilized in a time of crisis, rather than an integral part of an eventual draft system.

Other critics point out, however, that registration, alone, will not solve the problems of the military created by the AVF. They claim that the AVF:

- costs too much
- is below manpower requirement in the active armed forces

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500 Rally Against Nuclear Waste Disposal in New Mexico

By Craig Simpson

What a feeling to enter Albuquerque's Civic Plaza with 350 marchers and be greeted by 150 more people waiting for us to arrive and begin the Karen Silkwood Memorial Rally against Nuclear Waste Disposal in New Mexico on December 2. It may not seem like many people to those in the larger East Coast, Midwest and Pacific Coast cities, but it was huge for our part of the country. New Mexico is where the Arms Race began in July 1945 along the "Journey of "Death" at Trinity Site New Mexico. 55% of America's uranium comes from here and Los Alamos and Sandia Laboratories provide the vital research, design and fabrication of nuclear weapons and Manzano Base the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world.

New Mexico has been proposed as the largest nuclear waste disposal site in the United States. In the Southern, Sunny town of Carlsbad the Department of Energy wants their prime Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to bury spent fuel rods, waste from nuclear power plants and highly radioactive waste from the nuclear weapons program accumulated since 1945 at various sites around the country. Carlsbad contains large geological Salt Beds southeast of the city. Salt is seen by governments around the world as a solution to the waste storage problem but there is no conclusive evidence that salt could contain radioactive material for 100,000 years. But New Mexico seemed like a likely place to bury nuclear waste because it is "politically acceptable." So in 1972 it was announced that Carlsbad would be the nation's nuclear toilet.

Several groups showed opposition at the first announcement to the site but it seemed the state as a whole and even Carlsbad itself was all in favor. Southwest Research and Information Center began intensive work and research into the site. In July 1973, the first teach-in on the Atomic Energy Commission and demonstration against the waste site was held at Kirtland Air Force Base and Sandia Labs by War Resisters League local Albuquerque chapter but not much groundwork occurred against the site until 1976. Slowly the conflict built public debates were held and movies shown. When organizing began on the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice, local organizing felt a main demand should be against the waste site but the large organizing task of the Walk coming through the state pushed the issue to the back burners. After the Walk passed through and at an evaluation meeting it was proposed that we begin a campaign in WRL against some aspect of the nuclear fule cycle, either against mining and milling or against the waste site in Carlsbad. This led to an action on August 6th of that year against nuclear waste, nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons. Only five people joined the demonstration and march through the Northeast Heights of Albuquerque where we were threatened with arrest, booed, called names and physically threatened. After that action we felt we would spend several months in a study group on nuclear waste—seeing both sides of the issue, exploring alternatives, and providing strategy. By Novemeber we were ready to begin and form an organization especially to resist the waste site.

We called a meeting, invited Sally Rodgers of the Central Clearing House of Santa Fe to speak and sat back expecting the usual 25 people we get to all meetings. But suddenly and very unexpectedly 100 people showed up in the small church basement. We didn't have enough chairs to sit on and people lined the walls. a week later was the first business meeting of Citizens Against Nuclear Threats, the first citizens group formed to oppose the WIPP site.

It's now two years later. The movement has grown by leaps and bounds. In the summer of '77, 50 people marched to Kirtland to protest waste disposal and weapons. The Cactus Alliance was formed of anti-nuclear groups all over the Southwest (Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada.) We found we had every aspect of the fuel cycle in our five state region (give or take reprocessing and enrichment of uranium). In March, 1978, we won an important victory stopping the radwaste site in Cimmarron when local people formed a local anti-waste site organization, and fought hard for several months.

By this summer there were groups all over the state and even in Carlsbad. The National Indian Youth Council began a new project opposing new uranium mines and working to stop the hazards in the old mines. A new group was formed during the summer called Sandoval Environmental Action Community (SEAC) in the Bernaillo to oppose a large uranium mine proposed by Union Carbide and by October had convinced the Santo Domingo Pueblo tribe to come out even stronger than SEAC against mining on their land. Another tribe on the Navajo Reservation at Dalton Pass has voted against the proposed United Nuclear mine in their community chapter area.

But Carter has made it clear that Carlsbad WIPP site is the solution to the nuclear power industry's plant waste problem. State veto power has been supplanted for the state's "right of concurrence" or the right to say "yes." As power plants are beginning to be refused or voted down by local citizens because of no solution to the disposal problem, the industry and the government are seeing the future downfall of the industry. But the growing opposition in the state against WIPP has created a major crisis for the government.

On December 2, anti-WIPP,

anti-nuclear groups and those opposing uranium mining joined together in a common effort to stop WIPP. The day was overcast and cold as we started off from Yale Park and onto Central Avenue to the two mile march to the city center. By the time we got to Civic Plaza the sun was shining down on us as well as supplying energy to the hundreds of New Mexico citizens who have solar units on their houses. Although it was still cold, people's energy kept us warm.

Speakers included Lynda Taylor of the Silkwood Committee, who flew in to talk about the brave sister who we made the day a memorial to. Peter Franchau of Union for Concerned Scientists talked about nuclear power and the dangers of the nuclear waste burial. Local speakers from NAACP, Citizens Against Nuclear Threats, Cactus Alliance (who showed support for the demonstration that day at Palo Verde in Arizona), and SEAC, and the National Indian Youth Council. Vernon Bellacourt from American Indian Movement (AIM) was also there to help make connections with the genocide of the Native Peoples, and Mother Earth and John Redhouse talked about killing of the Navajo miners in Shiprock who have died from mining uranium. Ike DeVargas of the La Raza Unida, a former Chicano miner, spoke against mining and nuclear power and Junio Lopez of Northern New Mexico gave a poem in Spanish to Karen Silkwood.

It was a great day—500 people and a 2—inch column in the *New York Times*. We have grown from a demonstration of five in 1976-77 to 500 in 1978. One long time gay activist who had come down from Santa Fe to join us for the day was asked by a friend why she had become involved against nuclear waste disposal and said what all of us felt: "This issue touches all of us in New Mexico—the poor and the oppressed, the rich and the dispossesed. If we lose in Carlsbad we lose everywhere and if we win here, we all will win."

Craig Simpson works with Albuquerque WRL.

Support for Larzac Peasants Needed Now

By Craig Simpson

For over eight years, a group of peasants on the Larzac Plateau in South Central France have launched a creative, nonviolent campaign to prevent the expansion of a military training base onto the land they have farmed and grazed their sheep for centuries. Their resistance to the expansion has inspired supports and similar actions throughout all of Europe. They first became known when in 1971, they grazed a few truckloads of their sheep under the Eiffel Tower in Paris to show that, if pushed off their land, they would be forced to graze their sheep in such areas or their culture and livelihood would be destroyed. Other actions included driving their tractors from South of France to Paris, building a large cooperative sheepshelter just on the border of the present military camp, holding three day festivals on the plateau in which 100,000 came from all over France, planting fields of grain for the starving peasants in Sahael Africa and many more inspiring and imaginative actions. The resistance, although it has been long and intense, still continues today. Not all the original 103 peasant families are fighting the camp extension—some have left agriculture altogether, others have sold their land through fear and harassment to government or better to the resistance community land trust (GFA) while others have died and left their land with neighbors or relatives. But despite the bombings of peasant homes, physical and legal threats, and repression and jailing of the most active of the Larzac residents, the government has only gotten 9.2% of the planned extension in the eight year struggle.

Since September 28 of this year, the authorities have moved for a showdown threatening to evict those who occupy the 14 villages on the Plateau. The government has sent in a mass police and riot troop presence on the plateau and in the town of Millau—the largest town in the area of the plateau's edge. The Prefect of Millau sent out a "Decret de Cessibilite" or eviction notice for two of the villages where peasants reside. On the day following the eviction procedure 12 peasants in the threatened villages began a four day hunger strike outside the Cathedral of Rodez. Even the local Bishop gave his full support. The fast included two well known companions of the Community of the Ark—a large nonviolent Community close to the Larzac plateau started by Lanzo del Vasto (known to many as Shantidas), a disciple of Gandhi's and well respected religious and spiritual leader throughout Europe. Claude Voron is a member of the Ark and Les Truels, a village on the Larzac which peasants and Ark Companions have occupied since October, 1975, and Piere Parodi Mohandas, a doctor and Heir to Shantidas, both participated in the first fast.

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A.J. and the Moscow/Washington Demo

On Sept. 4, WRL conducted simultaneous disarmament demos in Red Square and at the White House. Were A.J. Muste alive, he would not only have supported this, but participated. It was A.J. who successfully negotiated permission in 1961 for the San Francisco-Moscow peace walkers to enter the Soviet Union and conclude their long walk in Red Square.

Each year in the Jan.-Feb. issue of WRL NEWS, we carry a reminder of what a great peacemaker A.J. was. This Feb.11 marks 12 years since his death.

We still have in stock:

Essays of A.J. Muste $3.45
Liberations Magazine's Memorial issue on A.J. 0.50
Of Holy Disobedience [A.J.'s essay on CD] 0.50

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On September 30, the owners of farms on the two villages received their notices of evictions and immediately returned them to the authorities. There is complete agreement not to cooperate with the notices of eviction or with the government and even farmers unions are refusing to take part in the discussions. On October 8, 5,000 people and 150 tractors gathered on the plateau's threatened land and held a rally and a picnic. After the demonstration, they plowed and planted crops on the now reoccupied military land.

Fasts are spreading rapidly throughout the country. In the cities of Montpellier, Beziers, Pau, Lyon, Roven, Reims, Lille, and Bedarieux a chain of fasts have been organized. Shantidas is fasting October 22-26 in Paris with Jacques de la Bollardiere (ex-general) Jean Gross Mayr and Jean Toulat (well known pacifist and religious leaders) and ex-Communist leader Jarandi. The fasts are unlimited and many peasants are willing to go as far as possible. A mass day of action is being planned soon to reoccupy the farms held by the army and a complete shutdown of all services in the area (similar to the Gandhian Hartal). The Larzac Committee and the Companions of the Ark are asking support from all sympathetic Americans now more than ever.

Letters of protest should be sent to:

President Giscard d'Estaing
Palias de l'Elysee
Paris 8e, France

Financial support can be sent to:
Comites Larzac
rue de Glossop
12100 Millau, France

For more information here in the U.S. write:
American Friends of Larzac
c/o Craig Simpson
201 Pine Street SE
Albuqurque, NM 87106

Craig Simpson is the WRL representative to the WRI council.

WAR TAX RESISTANCE

There has been resurgence, of sorts, in the war tax resistance movement, particularly among religious people.

In early October 300 people from the Quakers, Mennonites, and Brethren held a National "New Call to Peacemaking" Conference in Wisconsin. There was a strong interest and promotion of war tax resistance during the Conference with many seriously considering refusal to pay for the first time.

On May 30, 1978, the Center on Law and Pacifism (2016 Walnut Street, 3rd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103), a radical religious pacifist organization, opened its office. The Center is conceived to be a clearinghouse of legal assistance to tax resisters and others involved in nonviolent illegal activities. One of its first activities was to host a "National Military Tax Resistance Workshop and Organizing Weekend" in November. About 100 people attended three days discussing motivation, courts and the Constitution, direct action, wtr techniques, theological basis of war tax resistance, alternative funds, and so forth.

The National Council for a World Peace Tax Fund (2111 Florida Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008) is encouraging the establishment of WPTF Escrow Accounts. These Escrow Accounts are for people who wish to withhold the military portion of their taxes from the IRS in anticipation of the passage of the World Peace Tax Fund Act. It is felt that the Escrow Accounts will help focus legislative attention on war taxes.

WRL members are encouraged to send to the IRS (or Congress or the President) the "Cut Military Spending, Not Human Needs" card, which was enclosed with the November/December 1978 **WRL News**. Additional cards are available from WRL for 5 for 25¢ or 50 for $1. Give them to friends or leaflet them in front of IRS.

War Tax Resistance buttons are available for 50¢ each and posters for 75¢ (discounts for quantity orders). A basic information brochure on wtr is free. Or just send us $1.50 to get a War Tax Resistance Kit (it includes a poster, button, war tax information, income tax card, 12 telephone tax cards).

THE NEW "IN"—THE "T"-IN

By Jim Peck

We've had the sit-in, the stand-in, the jail-in, the die-in, and so on. Now there's a new entry—the "T-in."

It began on September 12 when J.P. Stevens boycott activists David Dyson, Eugene Carroll, and Carol Somplatsky-Jarman, entered the Gimbels department store in New York City wearing T-shirts with the slogan "Boycott J.P. Stevens" emblazoned across the front. They stood around the store's linen counter where the scab Stevens' products were displayed and were arrested on charges of militant trespass. The judge threw the case out of court, saying that a store has no right to dictate it's customers' personal attire. Gimbels, undaunted, vowed to arrest future protestors anyway.

Sure enough, on November 17, they did. Twelve persons, including myself and David McReynolds, wearing the same shirts, were arrested at the same spot by deputized Gimbels' security personnel. The following day eight more activists were detained. The 12 of us arrested November 17 were acquited at our arraignment December 7 by Judge Brenda Solow. Mel Sachs, our attorney, pointed out that the "criminal trespass" charge was so ridiculous that it didn't even warrant a trial. The judge agreed.

The 8 arrested the following day were to be arraigned December 11. But, since the same judge was sitting and she, undoubtedly, would have dismissed that case, too, the prosecutor got an adjournment until January 10.

Jim Peck is editor of WRL NEWS.

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much "disarmament talk" we could get in, how much to make of "legal arguments," whether we could reach with positive effect the working class/middle class, mostly black jury which numbered more than one government worker among its ranks. Veteran defendants recalled experiences at past trials and brought to our discussions the issues of non-cooperation, not standing before the judge, not challenging the statements of the police. Would such things get in the way of the issues? Would we be cited for contempt by Judge Smith?

Basic differences in political perspective and personality could have split the group—yet throughout—whether through need or desire—the eleven people ranging in age from 23 to 63, without formal leaders, mixed male and female stayed with one another solidly. Sometimes dissenting individuals went along with majority feelings, other times the group willingly supported seperate actions of those who felt morally/politically committed to a certain strategy. Though women supported women, group support was consistent through hours of trial, common meals of burnt Washington, D.C. pizza, and eight people sharing one bathroom.

It's hard to know if we glossed over differences—if we sacrificed any long-standing beliefs, or if, more healthily, we simply and naturally worked through a compatible blend of group processes and a genuine tolerance for conscientiously maintained attitudes.

In the next six weeks it will become clearer whether the actions of eleven people in the United States and seven people in the Soviet Union can build into yet another phase of mass support of the no nuke movement. The issues raised by our demonstration and trial have provided a focal point. The test for WRL and the eleven defendants is to expand the energy so far created...to show that the movement for a nuclear free future will not be hindered by momentarily silencing a few of our own.

Support for the goals of our demonstration and for the defendants was quick to build and continues to grow. During our trial vigils were organized by Sybil Clairborne, Joan Durant, Eva Kollish and Vera Williams which drew over a hundred and fifty participants. Friends and concerned strangers have sent messages of support and financial contributions. Efforts on our behalf has come from Congressional Representatives, government officials, White House staff, prestigious literary and artist's organizations and individuals, and, of course, from across the spectrum of our movement.

The issues involved in our trial forcefully reflect the growing patterns of hypocrisy in the Carter administration. As the candidate promising zero nuclear weapons, greater social responsibility, an end to the arms race, and a "committment" to human rights, President Carter has become the arms salesman to the world, the rationalizing protector of torturers and despots. Had we been Soviet citizens on the White House lawn we'd probably be having tea and cookies with Miss Lillian complete with high-sounding declarations and righteous anger. (And, sadly, had we been Soviet citizens in Red Square, we might well have suffered far worse...it takes more than one to run in an arms race.)

Carter is sensitive and vulnerable on the issues of the arms race and atomic weapons since his performance is so opposite his desired image. The growing movement against "the imminent destruction of the human race," as Norma Becker describes it, is to say the least, an embarassment to him.

Come to Washington on February 12. The court building is at 500 Indiana Ave. NW. Judge Smith's room is #24. Sentencing for the crime of supporting a peaceful planet is set for 9:30 and there is still so much to do.

Gail Bederman
Cathy Carson
Karl Bissinger
Ed Hedemann
Warren Hoskins
Ralph Di Gia
Karen Malpede
Linnea Capps Lacefield
Grace Paley
Glenn Pontier
Van Zwisohn

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Jerry Coffin
Norma Becker
Scott Herrick
Pat Lacefield
Craig Simpson
Steve Sumerford
David McReynolds

Van Zwisohn is Director of the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute. Cathy Carson is a staff member of WIN Magazine.

Financial help is needed. Please send contributions to: W.R.L.—Stop Nuclear Terror and the defense of the Washington 11, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012.

Letters of protest can be sent to:
President Carter
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC, 20500

Judge Donald S. Smith
District of Columbia Supreme Court
500 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington DC 20001

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- has recruited too many persons with less than high school educational ability.
- has a high percentage of minority personnel (Primarily black)
- has a high rate of attrition of men and women who do not complete their first term
- has created problems with "recruitment malpractice."

Consequently, there is a great deal of discussion of national service as a way to deal with military problems and address the social problems of youth.

National Service

The next step in the conscription process would be the establishment of a large national service program.

The small-scale model of this program, the ACTION Agency, is already in operation. A broad voluntary national service program with military service as one of several options, is being promoted.

Studies which have been published in the last year make it very clear that national service is being considered in relation to the military manpower question. The Beard Study, besides favoring registration, suggested that national service be studied. A Congressional Budget Office study entitled "National Service Programs and Their Effects on Military Manpower and Civilian Youth Problems," January, 1978, states that a voluntary national service including both government, civilian and military programs with a back-up draft would be most advantageous to the armed forces. A more recent study, "Toward Universal National Service," (Potomac Institute, September, 1978) also envisions a military role in a program of national service.

If a voluntary program of national service does not meet the needs of the armed forces then a compulsory program of national service would gain support. In such a program there would be various inducements to prompt citizens to choose the military option.

Military Conscription

In the event of a war, the SSS will use registration and national service apparatus to conscript men and women into the armed forces.

Registration, national service, and military conscription are not separate programs, rather, they are steps in the same process.

It would be a tragedy if the issue of the military conscription is blurred by the national service debate. We need to be clear in saying "no" to any registration or national service in our militarized society. Any step toward "beefing up" of the SSS, or introducing national service, is a step toward the draft, however slow the breeze.

Peggy Frantz is Associate Director of National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors.

WRL NEWS

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